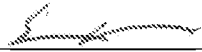


is filed concurrently herewith. Since Matsumoto has a filing date of November 8, 2004, which is later than the filing date of Japanese Application No. 2003-432306, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under § 102(e) and § 103 should be overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Respectfully submitted,



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